

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for making data derived from a video signal accessible, comprising:
2 receiving data derived from a vertical blanking interval of a video signal;
3 storing the data received on a storage medium for retrieval based on a subsequently
4 received request; and
5 indexing the stored data for retrieval by an electronic programming guide.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing of the data makes the data accessible
2 to an application program interface.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a disk drive such that the
2 storing includes storing the data on the disk drive.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a cable broadcasted video
2 signal such that receiving the data includes receiving data derived from the vertical blanking
3 interval of the cable broadcasted video signal.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a telestial broadcasted video
2 signal such that receiving the data includes receiving data derived from the vertical blanking
3 interval of the telestial broadcasted video signal.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a satellite broadcasted video
2 signal such that receiving the data includes receiving data derived from the vertical blanking
3 interval of the satellite broadcasted video signal.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising deriving the data by parsing data
2 received from the vertical blanking interval of the video signal.
- 1 8. A computer program capable of generating digital data representing information
2 communicated in a vertical blanking interval of a video signal, the computer program
3 comprising:

4 a receiving code segment that receives data representing information communicated
5 in a vertical blanking interval of a video signal;

6 a generating code segment that generates digital data based on the data using a
7 predetermined algorithm; and

8 a storing code segment that stores the generated data on a storage medium.

1 9. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the data includes non-video
2 information and the receiving code segment includes a code segment that receives data
3 representing non-video information.

1 10. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the video signal is a cable
2 broadcasted video signal such that the receiving code segment includes a code segment that
3 receives data communicated with the cable broadcasted video signal.

1 11. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the video signal is a satellite
2 broadcasted video signal such that the receiving code segment includes a code segment that
3 receives data communicated with the satellite broadcasted video signal.

1 12. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the video signal is a telestial
2 broadcasted video signal such that the receiving code segment includes a code segment that
3 receives data communicated with the telestial broadcasted video signal.

1 13. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the receiving code segment includes a
2 code segment that receives data representing the information communicated with the video
3 signal from among a vertical blanking interval of the video signal.

1 14. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the computer program is an
2 embedded software application.

1 15. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the generating code segment includes
2 a code segment for converting the data into a format that is used to generate an electronic
3 programming guide.

1 16. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the digital data includes a binary data
2 string such that the generating code segment includes a code segment for converting the data
3 into the binary data string.

1 17. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the receiving code segment includes:
2 a sampling code segment that periodically samples at least a portion of the video
3 signal containing the information,
4 a code segment that generates a numeric representation of the information including
5 an array of values based on samples from the sampling code segment, and
6 a code segment that receives the array as at least a portion of the data.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17, wherein the generating code segment
2 includes a converting code segment that converts values from within the array of values to at
3 least one binary character string.

1 19. The computer program of claim 18, wherein the converting code segment
2 includes:
3 an averaging code segment that computes an average of several of the array values;
4 a biasing code segment that biases the average to establish a cutoff value; and
5 a classifying code segment that classifies the information as electronic programming
6 guide data based on whether the average exceeds the cutoff value.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the averaging code segment includes
2 a moving averaging code segment that compute a moving average based on the values.

1 21. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the classifying code segment
2 classifies the information as a clock run in when the average exceeds the cutoff value.

1 22. The computer program of claim 17, wherein the array of values represent at least
2 color information and control information.

1 23. A method of generating an electronic programming guide, comprising:
2 receiving data derived from a vertical blanking interval of a video signal;
3 parsing data from within the vertical blanking interval of the video signal using a
4 computer software program; and
5 generating an electronic programming guide based on the parsed data.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein generating the electronic programming guide
2 comprises:

3 generating an electronic programming guide that includes at least one of a channel
4 identifier, a local tune number, a channel name, a broadcasting day and date, a broadcasting
5 start and end time, a program title, a program duration, a program category and index, one or
6 more subcategories and indexes, a television rating (e.g., TVY_LV, TVPG), a program
7 description, and indicators indicating whether the program is re-broadcasted, live, closed
8 captioned, in stereo, and pay per view.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein generating the electronic programming guide
2 comprises generating an electronic programming guide that is driven by a data management
3 code segment having at least one application program interface capable of supporting a user
4 interface, data loading and manipulation, and data mapping.